

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 127329
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 DHA-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 TRSE-00 ARA-10
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 /133 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:MGOULD:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:RADUMAS

-----030652Z 047328 /21

R 022009Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 127329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUNE 1 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUNE 1
PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Q: YESTERDAY, YOU TOLD US HOW YOU HAD TOLD THE RHODESIAN
GOVERNMENT THAT YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECT
THEIR CROSS-BORDER RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE MIGHT HAVE ON THE
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO UPDATE?

A: I CAN'T REPORT ANY DEVELOPMENT. I WOULD SAY THAT WE
REGARD IT AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER, AND WE SHARE THE
CONCERN THAT WAS EXPRESSED BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT THE PRESENT RHODESIAN ATTACK ON MOZAMBIQUE
THREATENS THE PRESENT BRITISH-AMERICAN PEACE EFFORTS, AND
CHALLENGES THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF A MEMBER STATE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 127329

WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH AND MOZAMBIQUE
GOVERNMENTS AND WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THEM ABOUT THE
STEPS WE COULD TAKE TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE ATTACK
AND PRESERVE THE CHANCES FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM.

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE LAUNCHING OF RAIDS INTO RHODESIA FROM MOZAMBIQUE? DO THEY HAVE ANY CONCERN FOR RHODESIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY? IS IT ENTITLED TO ANY, AS A BREAKAWAY COLONY?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT I AM GOING TO GET INTO A POSITION OF EXPRESSING FROM HERE WHETHER THERE IS A RIGHT TO PURSUE, BUT I WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND SEE WHAT KIND OF A REPLY I CAN GET FOR YOU.

Q: IT IS A QUESTION OF A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. ARE WE APPLYING THIS PRINCIPLE ONLY IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE, OR IS THIS A WORLD-WIDE PRINCIPLE, THAT GUERRILLAS CAN INVADE A COUNTRY FROM A SANCTUARY AND BE PROTECTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW?

A: AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE DISAPPROVE OF VIOLENCE IN THE SENSE THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, YES.

Q: ARE YOU CAUTIONING ANY RESTRAINT BY THE MOZAMBICANS AS FAR AS RETALIATION IS CONCERNED?

A: WE HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN TALKING WITH THEM, AS I SAID, BUT I AM REALLY NOT PRIVY TO WHAT WE HAVE SAID TO THEM.

Q: WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD BE CONSULTING ABOUT STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE ATTACK, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS MILITARY STEPS?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 127329

A: IT HAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE PRECISE ABOUT WHAT STEPS WE ARE CONSIDERING.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS WHETHER ANY U.S. OFFICIAL HAS SEEN THIS GUY BY THE NAME OF FOX?

A: OUR CONSUL IN ADDIS ABABA SAW LESLIE FOX FOR A HALF HOUR YESTERDAY MORNING. HE APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION BUT WAS SUFFERING FROM A HEAD COLD. THE ETHIOPIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES AGREED TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR MR. FOX AND ALSO TO PERMIT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DOCTOR TO SEE HIM, IF NECESSARY.

THE CONSUL WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOX FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES EACH DAY. I UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT TODAY A CONSULAR OFFICER WILL BE SEEING MR. FOX AND PROVIDING HIM

SOME BOOKS, MAGAZINES, AND OTHER THINGS THAT HE HAS REQUESTED.

Q: HAS HE BEEN CHARGED WITH ANYTHING?

A: NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED YET. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN SECURITY INVESTIGATION WILL NOT BE KNOWN FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS, AND AT THAT TIME IT WILL BE DECIDED WHETHER TO PRESS THE CHARGES.

Q: WERE YOU ASKED HERE YESTERDAY, OR PREVIOUSLY, ABOUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT IN CLOSING THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE?

A: I WAS NOT ASKED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 127329

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN IT?

A: WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A ROLE. I THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME WORKING LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE HERE, BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NO ROLE. THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION MAY 27, AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW, WHICH EXPANDED SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

I COULD SAY THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO BE AMONG THE SPONSORS OF THAT RESOLUTION, WHICH WENT THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNAMINOUSLY. IT PROHIBITS THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT RHODESIAN OFFICES IN U.N. MEMBER STATES.

Q: IS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS?

A: THAT IS THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTERNATIONALLY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, YES.

Q: WELL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD A ROLE, OBVIOUSLY, IN SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION.

A: WELL, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, YES, YOU CAN CERTAINLY SAY THAT BUT I UNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION TO MEAN WHETHER WE HAVE ANY ROLE IN WHAT THE INFORMATION OFFICE HERE WAS DOING.

Q: WELL, WAS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THAT RESOLUTION REQUIRES THE CLOSING OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE?

A: NO, IT PROHIBITS THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTERNATIONALLY.

Q: DID YOU SAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS PLEASED TO BE AMONG THE SPONSORS OF THIS RESOLUTION? THE NET EFFECT IS WHAT -- TO CUT OFF THE ABILITY OF THE RHODESIANS TO PUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 127329

FORTH THEIR POINT OF VIEW, IS THAT THE MAIN EFFECT?

A: I THINK THAT OUR -- WELL, ON BACKGROUND, LET ME POINT TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE BYRD AMENDMENT WAS FINALLY RESCINDED, AND I THINK THE SAME REASONING AND THE SAME FEELING THAT LIES BEHIND THAT AS LIES BEHIND OUR PLEASURE TO BE AMONG THE SPONSORS OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Q: DID THE INFORMATION OFFICE SERVE AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SO FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED OUR WAS IT PURELY A PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION OFFICE?

A: IN ANSWER TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW. I DOUBT IT VERY MUCH.

Q: YOU DOUBT IT.

A: I WOULD EVEN GO TO SO FAR AS TO SAY I AM SURE OF THAT.

IN ANSWER TO THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I AM NOT GOING TO CHARACTERIZE WHAT THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IS OR WAS.

Q: DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT USE THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO.

Q: IS IT LOGICAL FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT FUNDS FOR THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED IN INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS, BUT IT PERMITS PLO OFFICES TO OPERATE IN NEW YORK?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 127329

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

A: FIRST OF ALL, THIS IS NOT A UNITED STATES POSITION,
THIS IS A U.N. POSITION.

Q: WELL, YES, BUT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED THE
SECURITY COUNCIL. THEREFORE, IT IS A U.S. POSITION. THE
QUESTION IS: WHERE IS THE LOGIC IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT

THAT IT WILL FORBID THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTERNATIONALLY
TO THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICES FOR THEM TO CONVEY
THEIR POINTS OF VIEW, WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES IS

SILENT -- AS A MATTER OF FACT, CONDONES THE TRANSFER OF
FUNDS TO NEW YORK TO KEEP THE PLO OFFICES IN OPERATION?

A: FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A U.N.
RESOLUTION AND A U.S. POSITION. OUR POSITION ON THE PLO
OFFICE, WE HAVE STATED A NUMBER OF TIMES. AS LONG AS
THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL EXISTING REGULATIONS,
THERE IS NO LEGAL WAY THAT WE CAN TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE
PLO OFFICE.

I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO IT BEYOND THAT.

Q: WELL, LET ME GO A LITTLE FURTHER THEN. HAS THE
RHODESIAN OFFICE IN ANY WAY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE
UNITED STATES REGULATIONS? CAN YOU SHOW US ANY EVIDENCE
THAT IT HAS OR HAS NOT?

A: I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT HAS OR HAS NOT, BUT I
THINK WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS A U.N. RESOLUTION.

Q: NO. IT'S A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH
IS DISTINCT FROM A U.N.G.A. RESOLUTION. OF COURSE, WE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 127329

KNOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT BIASED AGAINST ISRAEL
OR SO ON OR THE PLO FOR THAT MATTER. THIS IS SOMETHING
ELSE. I AM ASKING ABOUT THE LOGIC OF TAKING THESE
STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. ONE, FOR RHODESIA IT IS OKAY
TO BLOCK RHODESIA -- NOT THAT I AM IN FAVOR OF RHODESIA
BY ANY MEANS. BUT IT'S A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE. BUT THE
PLO IS PERMITTED TO SPEW ITS PROPAGANDA OUT OF NEW YORK.
WHY IS THAT? ISN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT REALLY OPERATING
ON TWO ROLES, HAS A DOUBLE STANDARD OR A TRIPLE STANDARD?

A: NO. I DON'T AGREE WITH THAT. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO
REPEAT WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID, WHICH IS ALL I COULD DO
IN ANY CASE. I WOULD POINT OUT AGAIN THAT THE ACTION ON

THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IS A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN WHICH WE HAD A PART.

THE POSITION ON THE PLO, WHOSE ACTIVITIES YOU REFER TO, IS, AS FAR AS I KNOW, A MATTER FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AS FAR AS ITS OWN REGULATIONS ARE CONCERNED.

Q: MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND ENTITIES ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF AMERICAN PR FIRMS HERE IN WASHINGTON.

CAN RHODESIA DO THAT AND, IF NOT, WHY NOT? DOESN'T THE U.N. RESOLUTION SOMEHOW CONFLICT WITH THE U.S. LAW ON THIS?

A: LET ME TRY TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT LATER.
VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, INVASIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE127329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGOUOLD:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770197-1334
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770697/aaaadgtv.tel
Line Count: 294
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1dfb4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2300940
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUNE 1 PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT JUNE 1 PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, RH, MZ
To: AF POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1dfb4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009